

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (canceled).

Claims 2 (withdrawn). A process for the extraction of a novel protein (polypeptide-k) from *Momordica charantia* comprising the steps of:

- i. grinding the dry seeds of *Momordica charantia*,
- ii. treating the pulverized seeds with a mixture of hexane and acetone in the ratio 3:1,
- iii. dissolving the residual mass in about 80% aqueous acetone,
- iv. adjusting the pH up to 9.5 by adding suitable organic buffer like ammonium hydroxide,
- v. treating the supernatant layer with sulfuric acid after adjusting the pH to 3, and
- vi. collecting the flocculent precipitate of polypeptide-k and isolating the protein by selective crystallization.

Claims 3 (withdrawn). A process as claimed in claim 2 wherein the protein is extracted from the dry seeds of *Momordica charantia*.

Claims 4 (withdrawn). A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the seeds of *Momordica charantia* are split, washed thoroughly with water 2-3 times to render it substantially free from impurities and dried under vacuum, before extraction of the protein.

Claims 5 (withdrawn). A method for treatment of *diabetes mellitus*, comprising the steps of administering a composition containing 'polypeptide k' orally (in a sublingual manner) to a subject in need thereof, at least 10 minutes before every meal, 4 times a day.

Claims 6 (withdrawn). Use of the protein extracted from *Momordica charantia* to manufacture a hypoglycemic composition useful in the treatment of diabetes mellitus.

Claim 7 (new). A protein comprising polypeptide-k extracted from *Momordica charantia*, the polypeptide-k comprising 160 amino acid residues, said amino acid residues consisting of aspartic acid, threonine, serine, glutamine, proline, cysteine, glycine, alanine, valine, methionine, isoleucine, leucine, tyrosine, phenylalanine, histidine, lysine, tryptophan and arginine, the following amino acids being present in the polypeptide-k in the following amounts by mole percent:

aspartic acid	9.4%
threonine	3.0%
serine	5.3%
glutamine	17.1%
proline and cysteine	5.5%
glycine	8.9%
alanine	7.3%
valine	6.8%
methionine	1.5%
isoleucine	4.8%

leucine	8.2%
tyrosine	2.7%
phenylalanine	4.2%
histidine	3.1%
arginine	9.2%

said polypeptide-k having the following properties:

- i. being water insoluble but soluble to some extent at pH 9.5 and completely soluble in 10% formic acid,
- ii. having a free N-terminal,
- iii. being stable,
- iv. having a shelf-life of about 18 months,
- v. having a combustion point of 234°C, and
- vi. not showing cross reaction when tested with bovine insulin.